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SEARCH ENDS OFF ALASKA FOR MAN FROM MTN. VIEW

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Friends of a Mountain View man whose 52-foot sailing boat disappeared during an Alaska storm are coping with their worst fears now that the Coast Guard has called off its search.

David Poole, a retired media processor architect, was reported missing Friday by a friend, Los Altos resident Barbara Aschenbrenner, after she had not heard from him in 11 days. Poole, 56, embarked on a solo trip to southeast Alaska aboard his boat, the Bird, on Oct. 25.

A search by Alaskan Coast Guard officers of Glacier Bay turned up chunks of blue fiberglass, an extra-large life jacket, a blue tote and other debris. The search grew more grim after the crew of a fishing vessel found a custom-made refrigerator from the Bird.

Officials contacted the craftsman of the appliance, who told them that the only way it could have come out of the boat was if the boat had broken apart.

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